

National Weather Service
Gaylord, MI

Michigan

Known for extreme winter weather and historic winter storms



Snow stick in Mohawk, Michigan

Heavy Snow / Blizzards

- Heavy snow can immobilize a region and paralyze a city.
- Transportation may be crippled: Commuters stranded, roads impassable, and airports closed.
- Snow accumulation may lead to collapsed roofs, downed trees, and power lines.
- People may be stranded in their homes for several days





Blizzard of 1978

Photo's courtesy of Traverse City Record Eagle and Grand Rapids Press





Blizzard of 1978, Downtown Traverse City



Blizzard of 1978, Traverse City

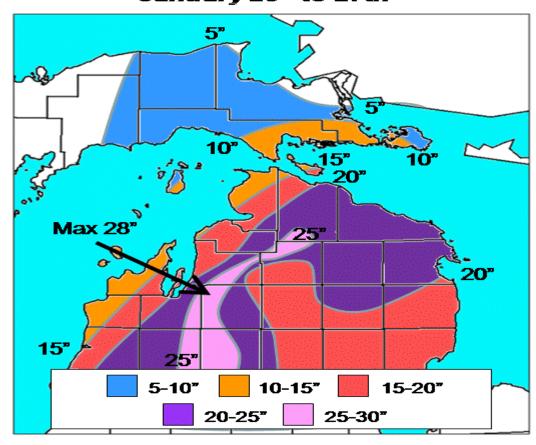


Blizzard of 1978, Grand Rapids



Blizzard of 1978, Ann Arbor

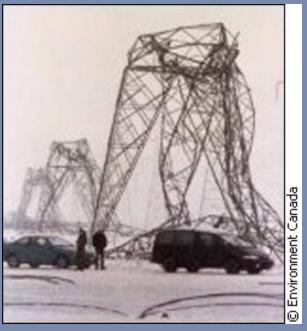
Michigan Blizzard 1978 January 25th to 27th



Ice

- The grip between tires and asphalt is dangerously reduced when a layer of ice exceeds 0.05mm (1/50 inch) in thickness.
- Bridges and overpasses are particularly treacherous in icy conditions.
- Heavy accumulations of ice can bring down trees and topple utility poles and communication towers.





Ice Storm of 1922 in northern Michigan

Photo's courtesy of Wexford County Historical Society











Watches

Purpose: Winter weather watches provide 12 to 48 hour notice of a hazardous weather event which has the potential to threaten life or property.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 2nd and/or 3rd periods of the forecast. Fourth period watches are restricted to the most significant events.

Types of Watches

- Blizzard
- Lake Effect Snow
- Winter Storm

Warnings

Purpose: Winter weather warnings are issued when hazardous winter weather is occurring, imminent or has a high probability of occurring.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 1st and 2nd periods. Occasionally, with high confidence for significant events, warnings will extend into the 3rd period.

Types of Warnings

- Blizzard
- Ice Storm
- Lake Effect Snow
- Wind Chill
- Winter Storm

Advisories

Purpose: Advisories provide people with advance notice of hazardous winter weather events which could lead to life-threatening situations if caution is not observed.

Time Frame: They are normally issued for the 1st and 2nd periods.

Types of Advisories

- Lake Effect Snow
- Wind Chill
- Freezing Rain
- Winter Weather



Winter weather safety

Things to have in your auto emergency kit for winter:

- Shovel
- Flares and reflectors
- Jumper Cables
- Bag of kitty litter (for traction if stuck)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Empty coffee can, candles, matches
- Blankets
- Extra clothing including mittens
- Non-perishable food (candy bars, power bars, etc.)



Winter weather safety

If ever stranded in your vehicle during a blizzard:

- •Stay in your car or truck. Disorientation occurs quickly in winddriven snow and cold.
- •Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat. Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- •Make yourself visible to rescuers. Turn on the dome light at night when the engine is running. Tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door. Raise your hood to indicate trouble after the snow stops falling.



Winter weather safety

If you lose heat in your home during a winter storm:

- Seal off unused rooms by stuffing towels/blankets under the doors
- Cover windows with extra sheets and blankets
- Use only devices designed for indoor heating when using alternative heat sources
- Be very careful with kerosene heat sources due to the carbon monoxide threat (crack a window in house if needed)

Any Questions?

- NWS Gaylord web page:
 - www.weather.gov/gaylord
- NWS Gaylord phone number:
 - -989.731.3384
- Email questions:
 - james.keysor@noaa.gov